

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- 5 1. A method of selectively accessing a network, using an end device having an indirect interface that can communicate with one or more access network terminating devices, the method comprising the steps of:
- determining an access capability for each of the one or more access network terminating devices; and
- comparing the determined access capability for the each of the one or more access network terminating devices with a preferred access capability associated with the end device, wherein at least one of the access network terminating devices is selected based on the comparison.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- configuring the end device according to the access capability of the selected at least one of the one or more access network terminating devices.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the access capability further includes one or more of: cost of access, coverage area, bandwidth, delay, priority level and QoS.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the preferred access capability further includes one or more of: cost of access, coverage area, bandwidth, delay, priority level and QoS.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- polling the indirect interface to detect if one or more new access network terminating devices are available to the end device;

determining an access capability for each of the one or more new access network terminating devices if detected; and

comparing the determined access capability for the each of the one or more detected new access network terminating devices with at least one of said preferred access capability associated with the end device and said access capability of a currently used access network terminating device, wherein one of said new access network terminating devices can be selected based on the comparison.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
selecting one of the one or more new access network terminating devices based on the comparison; and
configuring the end device according the access capability of the selected one of the one or more new access network terminating devices.

7. A system for providing selective access to a network comprising:
an end device;
at least one access network terminating device for connecting said end device to said network; and
an indirect interface coupled to the end device and to said at least one access network terminating device, the indirect interface configured to:
determine an access capability for each of the at least one access network terminating device; and
compare the determined access capability for the each of the at least one access network terminating device with a preferred access capability associated with the end device, wherein one of said at least one access network terminating devices is selected based on the comparison.

8. The system of claim 7, further comprising:

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14. The system of claim 13, wherein said cellular telephone includes, as a direct interface, means for communicating over a cellular air interface and includes, as said indirect interface, means for communicating over a Bluetooth air interface.

5 15. An end device comprising:
means for storing access network preferences;
means for communicating with a plurality of network access
terminating devices over a indirect interface,
means for selecting one of said plurality of network access
10 terminating devices by receiving access network capabilities associated with each of
said plurality of network access terminating devices over said indirect interface and
comparing said received access network capabilities with said stored access network
preferences.

15 16. The end device of claim 15, wherein said indirect interface is a
Bluetooth interface.

20 17. The end device of claim 15, wherein said access network terminating
devices provide a communication link with the Internet.

25 18. The end device of claim 15, further comprising:
mean for communicating over a direct interface.

20 19. The end device of claim 18, wherein said end device can
communicate simultaneously over said direct interface and said indirect interface.

25 20. The end device of claim 18, wherein said direct interface is a cellular
interface.

21. A method for selectively connecting an end device to a network comprising the steps of:

identifying at least one network terminating device available to said end device for connection to said network;

5 transferring capability information between said at least one network and said end device;

comparing said transferred capability information with stored user preferred capability information;

10 selecting one of said at least one network terminating device based on a result of said comparing step; and

connecting to said network using said selected network terminating device.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:
15 continuing, after said connecting step, to identify network terminating devices available to said end device.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:
20 determining if capability information associated with a newly identified network terminating device provides a greater match with said stored user preferred capability information than said selected network terminating device.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of:
25 selectively changing said connection to said network from said selected network terminating device to said newly identified network terminating device based on a result of said determining step.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein said step of transferring further comprises the step of:
offering, from said at least one network terminating device, a foreign agent to said end device.

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